



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

D.T.E. 03-72

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Company ("Fitchburg") is required to publish the attached notice of filing and public hearing at least fourteen (14) days prior to September 11, 2003 in: (1) either the Boston Globe or Boston Herald, (2) the Fitchburg-Leominster Sentinel, and (3) the Worcester Telegram and Gazette.

Fitchburg is further ordered to serve a copy of this notice by mail to the service lists in its last respective rate case, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, D.T.E. 02-24/25, and its last respective financing approval case, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, D.T.E. 01-43, the Chairmen of the Boards of Selectmen, the Mayors, and the City Clerks in every municipality in its gas and electric service territories.

Fitchburg is required to make return of service and publication at the time of the public hearing on September 11, 2003.

By Order of the Department,

/s/ _____
Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING

D.T.E. 03-72

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company for approval to issue \$10,000,000 in long-term debt, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14, an exemption from the requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15, as well as the authority to receive a capital contribution of \$6,000,000 from Unitil Corporation.

On July 31, 2003, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company ("Fitchburg") filed a petition for approval to issue \$10 million in long-term debt, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14, with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department"). In addition, Fitchburg seeks an exemption from the requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15 (which requires Fitchburg to publicize or invite bids for the proposed transactions) and the authority to receive a capital contribution of \$6 million from the Unitil Corporation, Fitchburg's parent corporation. Fitchburg is both a gas and electric company subject to the provisions of G.L. c. 164. This matter has been docketed as D.T.E. 03-72.

Fitchburg seeks approval to issue long-term debt to retire outstanding short-term debt. Fitchburg contends that the short-term debt has been incurred in the course of its regular operations for capital additions and betterments to its utility plant, property and equipment. Fitchburg also contends that the proposed issuance of long-term debt is reasonably necessary for the conduct of its operations and should result in the lowest possible cost securities.

The Department will hold a public hearing to receive comments on Fitchburg's petition. The hearing will take place at the Department's offices, One South Station, 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts on Thursday, September 11, 2003 at 10:00 AM. An evidentiary hearing is scheduled to follow immediately thereafter. Any person who desires to comment may do so at the public hearing or submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Thursday, September 11, 2003.

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must

file a written petition for leave to intervene with the Department not later than the close of business on Tuesday, September 9, 2003. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 C.M.R. § 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A § 10.

An original and five (5) copies of all written comments or petitions to intervene must be filed with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station - 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 not later than the close of business on the dates noted above. One copy of all written comments or petitions to intervene should also be sent to Fitchburg's attorney, Meabh Purcell, c/o LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, 260 Franklin Street, 23rd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.

All written comments or petitions to intervene should also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us; or (2) on a 3.5" disk, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.T.E. 03-72), (2) name of the person or company submitting the filing, and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix), in Microsoft Word (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix), or as an Adobe PDF file (naming the document with a ".pdf" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. All comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website: <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

Fitchburg's petition may be inspected at the Department's offices during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) and at the offices of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, 285 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420. A copy of the petition is also available on the Department's website. Any person desiring further information regarding Fitchburg's petition should contact Meabh Purcell, Esq., at (617) 748-6800. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Kevin Penders, Hearing Officer, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, at (617) 305-3500.